

## **PARK COMMISSION**

**JUNE 14, 2010**

The regular monthly meeting of the Park Commission was held at Town hall at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno, Presiding	John Scippa
Kevin Bellows	Anthony Chmielewski
Ken Martin	Joseph DeSabia
(7:40pm)	Gene Cellini (8:05 p.m.)

Also,  
Dmitri Paris, Park superintendent  
Mary Markham, Recreation Director

Guests:  
Janice Kenny, 30 Saddle Hill Road, Monroe, CT Yankee Dachshund Club  
Debbie West, 85 Old Church Hill Rod, Trumbull, CT Yankee Dachshund Club  
Donna Owen, 1237 Daniels Farm Road, Rail Trail Suggestion

### Janice Kenny and Debbie West on behalf of CT Yankee Dachshund Club:

Requested permission to use Old Mine Park, Sunday, August 1, 2010 for a dachshund fun day/match show... agility and races with a picnic lunch. They will set up temporary fencing on the field. They will come in around noon, begin show at 1:00 p.m. and conclude around 4:00 p.m. They have been approved by the American Kennel Club. They expect 20 dogs plus owners. They will pick up area when done. Date is open. They will provide the required Insurance Certificate and fee.

Chairman noted we have had this type dog event in the past without problems.

### Donna Owen, 1237 Daniels Farm Road:

Commissioner Martin introduced Donna to the Commission as a resident he met on the Rail Trail who has some thoughts on identifying sites along the Trail and he invited her to come to this meeting. Donna expressed thoughts on promoting the Trail and planned tours, etc. perhaps on a web site so that users can be kept informed on upcoming events along the trail.

Chairman explained that while this would be a nice service, the Commission does not have someone who can administer a dedicated web site but that the Town does have a part-time Web Master who posts items passed along to her. Any group who has information to get out through this site can make contact with the Town Hall Technology Department for posting the information.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to close Public Comments and return to order of the Agenda.

**MOTION** by Mr. Chmielewski, second Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting as distributed.

**MOTION** by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. DeSabia, unanimously passed to approve request by the Conn. Yankee Dachshund Club to conduct a Dachshund Fun Day/Match Show at Old Mine Park on Sunday, August 1, 2010, with appropriate permit and insurance certificate from the Recreation Department with any advisement by the Park Superintendent and/or Park Rangers.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

Copy of resident Live Letter appearing in Trumbull Times expressing concern with the proposal to possibly construct a new combined Ranger Station and Nature/Arts Center at the top of Hedgehog Road in Beach Memorial Park.

Chairman noted that he has received feed back that there is some objection to building this type facility in Beach Memorial Park. Although this is just in discussion stage, the Chairman requested the Town Attorney review the Deed. Chairman indicated that the Commission is certainly open to any other suggested locations if in fact the two current properties housing the Rangers and Nature Center are sold. Chairman noted that the Aldo Property at Unity Park is dedicated by the Town Council as parkland under jurisdiction of the Park Commission.

Superintendent said that many buildings and grounds maintenance responsibilities fall to the Parks Department in conjunction with the Public Works Department although not within parks, and the Nature/Arts Center is one of these. Because of this, they would like to be affiliated and associated with the Parks Department and Ranger functions so this proposal has met with their approval. The goals and mission of the two are different but can harmoniously work together. Both current facilities are in need of major maintenance and this proposal addresses that concern.

**Recreation Director:**

The Recreation Department has a verbal agreement with one selected Ice Cream Vendor to service certain events and programs, when desired. They have had a request by an additional vendor to service their events. She has checked with the Town Attorney who indicates that the Board of Recreation has the authority to select one vendor for security reasons so long as that vendor has Health Department approval and the approval of the Park Commission for programs within the parks system.

There was discussion on whether in the future we should go back to a bid proposal for ice cream vending for other than Recreation Department activities within the parks system.

**MOTION** by Mr. DeSabia, second by Mr. Cellini, unanimously passed in support of one Board of Recreation selected ice cream vendor for Recreation Programs and Event within the parks system.

Request by Cub Scout Troop 167 to utilize Nothnagle Tennis courts on July 18, 2010 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for a Cub Scout Tennis Fun Day ( 6 to 8 boys).

**MOTION** by Mr. Cellini, second by Mr. Chmielewski and Dr. Bellows, unanimously passed to approve Cub Scout Troop 167 use of Nothnagle Tennis courts on July 18, 2010 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for a Cub Scout Tennis Fund Day, with permit through the Recreation Department.

Mr. Cellini mentioned he spoke with Walter Kaechele jogging at the Madison Middle School track. He mentioned two large trees at the front of the Kaechele property (now Kaechele Soccer Complex) and that he would like to have the trees pruned and fertilized (they were trees his father planted). Superintendent will check and take care of what may be needed.

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Dr. Bellows reported that there is a problem at the Little League dugouts at the Unity Park Complex. Wads of gum have been stuck on the back of the dug outs. Smiley faces have been designed in gum, etc. One player leaned against the back and gum was stuck to him when he moved away. The dugouts need to be scraped off and gum should be restricted.

Kids have been seen climbing onto the roofs of the rest rooms and storage trailer. Coaches must police the field areas.

A letter will be sent to Little League appraising them of the vandalism to facilities and the safety concerns with climbing with a request they have their coaches police the dug outs and restrict the gum at games as well as have the old dilapidated storage trailer removed from the grounds.

Dr. Bellows reported a weather incident Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Huge 20 minute down-pour at 5:00 p.m. Fields at Unity were left with large puddles. The coaches looked for brooms, etc to dry the fields. A group of what was thought to be contracted workers worked on all but field #1. Turned out that these workers were not contract maintenance people but coaches who didn't know the policy and did a great deal of damage to fields 3/4/5. Ranger came along and removed everyone from the fields as they were unplayable.

Superintendent said that Little League has been given the opportunity to police themselves. There is now a great deterioration of fields. Because of this situation, he is meeting with Little League this week.

Mr. Martin on behalf of the Trumbull Historical Society reported that this year's History Camp will take place July 12 through 16 and July 19 through 23<sup>rd</sup>. Both will be conducted inside the air conditioned Abraham Nichols House. Twelve youngsters each session.

He said Scot Shafer, Eagle Scout Troop 67, will be requesting permission to conduct an Eagle Project at the grounds. He is planning to reestablish the split rail fence. It is a significant project, and Mr. Martin will invite him to an upcoming meeting to review his project with the Commission.

**CONSENSUS** of agreement to the Historical Society History Camp within their building July 12 through 16 and July 19 through 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

**CONSENSUS** of agreement to Eagle Scout Project to reestablish the rail fence at Abraham Nichols Park with qualified adult supervision to be provided by Scout Troop or its affiliate.

Mr. Scippa attended the Fallen Heroes event and noted that it was one of the most “moving” events he has attended. When white doves were released in memory of the fallen, there was not a dry eye in the crowd. The Newport Navy Band played and many dignitaries from the state attended. He was most impressed and indicated that Mr. Mastroni deserves accolades for orchestrating this event.

Mr. Martin mentioned (as Chairman of the Historical Society) that as the Society is currently looking into the possibility of sponsoring a 5K Race along the Rail Trail, perhaps Thanksgiving morning.

Dr. Bellows questioned permit fees for teachers taking classes to parks. Recreation Director explained that this is policy, the School System charges for use of school facilities and school sponsored field trips receive a reduced fee for use of park facilities.

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Mr. Scippa retired from the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

**CONSENSUS** of approval for the Historical Society to conduct a 5K race on the Rail Trails, Thanksgiving morning. Superintendent and Commission thought this is a good proposal. Planning and controls need to be completed, parking areas need to be determined (shopping center may be more open on a Holiday morning, Old Mine and Indian Ledge at the North end). EMS, Police and Park Rangers need to be incorporated in the planning. This event will be funded and managed solely by the Trumbull Historical Society with coordination through the Park Commission.

Superintendent's Report:

- Pools and Sprinkler Parks up and running for the summer season.
- Tashua Pool new playground equipment installed.
- Second application of fertilizer spread.
- Fallen Heroes event set-up and take-down required some over-site as they contract for tents etc.
- Indian Ledge I turf coming in.
- Date for Summer Concert set as September 10<sup>th</sup> with the group TRAIN.

Vehicle Stickers:

Recreation Department set up an announcement in the Trumbull Times and Connecticut Post on continued use of current vehicle stickers continuing to be available at the Recreation Department.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. by Dr. Bellows, second by Mr. DeSabia, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe  
Clerical Adm. Assistant

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**MOTIONS**

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